



MEETING OF THE EXPERT MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

18 June 2021

Expert Members held their fourth meeting of the year on 18 June 2021, with discussion focused on the development of the new Australian Strategy for International Education 2021-2030 (the Strategy).

Through May and June, Expert Members led a series of 12 targeted workshops with around 200 attendees, representing a diverse range of international education, industry and government stakeholders. These workshops highlighted strategic perspectives and opportunities for recovery and reform by providers, government and the international education sector. Expert Members reviewed feedback gathered throughout the consultation process, including the workshops, as well as 119 written submissions and the outcome of webinars involving over 1400 participants.

There were several themes common across the entire consultation process, including the quality of student experience, growing the reach of Australian education offshore, online and among new student cohorts, employability outcomes and the link to Australia's skills needs, as well as strengthening coordination in the governance of international education. Expert Members agreed that the contribution of the sector throughout the consultation process was substantial. The Convener, the Hon Phil Honeywood, thanked the Expert Members for their own significant contributions to the consultation process.

Expert Member Professor Michael Wesley led a discussion on the Council's interest in understanding the value of international education to Australia's community, an area of focus in a number of written submissions. The consultations also highlighted the importance of more effectively communicating the social, cultural and diplomatic benefits of international education. Expert Members will continue to consider this critical issue for the sector and its future success.

Reflecting on the feedback received through the public consultation process, Expert Members discussed the key principles and priorities for the Strategy. Expert Members are working to finalise advice to the Chair of the Council for International Education, Minister for Education and Youth the Hon Alan Tudge MP.

The next Expert Members meeting is scheduled for August 2021.